Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Spices during 1992-93 with increased financial out lays.

Oil Drilling in Himachal Pradesh

1598. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Q.No. 1969 on 8th January, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Oil drilling work has since been started in Changar-Talai in Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir, on 19.3.1991.

(b) Till 27.2.1992 well Changar-Talai- 1 had been drilled upto a depth of 3308 metres.

[*English*]

Increase in Quota of Kerosene to Kerala and Karnataka

1599. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governments of Kerala and Karnataka have approached the Union Government to increase the quota of Kerosene; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests, whenever received, are considered and decisions taken keeping in view various factors, including products availability, natural clamities etc.

[*Translation*]

Increase in Income limit for Post-Matric Scholarship

1600. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recieved any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for increasing the income limit of the parents/guardians for eligibility to grant post-matric scholarship to chidren and to link the income limit with the price index under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

[*English*]

Police Verification for Passport Seekers

1601. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to scrap the existing practice of Police Verification for passport seekers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.